

REPORT NO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Chileans with contacts in labor circles report that dissatisfaction with the pro-government leadership of the Junta Nacional de Empleados de Chile (JUNECh) is expected to cause new alignments of the various component member federations. The Chilean Educators' Federation (FEDECh) is expected to collaborate closely with the Government Employees' Association (ANEF), while the Bank Employees' Federation and the Federation of Electrical, Telephone, and Gas Employees will also work closely together in opposition to the present JUNECh leadership.
2. Edgardo Maass Jensen, leftist union leader, is directing the opposition of the bank employees and the electrical workers from prison, where he is serving a sentence for his part in the recent Maass-Soto affair.* Maass was also a leading figure in the February 1950 strike which led to the loss of power by the "National Concentration" coalition government, and he still appears to maintain some of his past influence. According to source, the Communists are firmly entrenched in the Maass-led federations, although they do not hold any directive positions.
3. It is reported that the Maass-led federations will demand repeal of the Defense of Democracy Law and may call a year-end general strike to further this program.
4. It is believed that the dissension within JUNECh will strip the group of much of its previous power even though the member federations may not withdraw from it.

Comment. It is not known how strong Maass' influence is at present in circles of which he was the leader, as some reports have indicated that he has been roughly discredited in the eyes of the banking federation because of his participation in the faked kidnapping plot through which it was hoped to overthrow the government. [REDACTED]

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